

Chancellor Weekly Brief | 6.29.2021

Dr. James Malm

NMACC.

Greetings to you during this final week of June and as we welcome these much-anticipated seasonal monsoons to our Four Corners region. While campus remains quiet during these summer months, there is ongoing preparation among our faculty and staff behind the scenes to ensure a safe return to campus this fall. We eagerly anticipate our students' return to the classrooms and labs in August, and I encourage all students to register for the fall semester at your earliest convenience.

Along with these preparations across our UNM-Gallup campus, I'm joining with other administrators, executives, and state public officials tomorrow and Thursday for the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges (NMACC) board retreat, where I have the honor to serve as the board's secretary/treasurer. The important work we will conduct during this retreat on behalf of all community colleges in our state includes a sharing of return to campus plans, a review of association goals, and a discussion of legislative priorities for the rest of this year and into the upcoming legislative session—to name just a few topics that will be covered during these next two days.

These collaborations facilitated through the NMACC will also serve to maintain and hopefully grow our state funding streams out into the future in service to the association's mission, which is to "promote the welfare and advancement of New Mexico's community and technical colleges—and to foster the concepts of community college education."

There is such relevance to these meetings—and good work to conduct together—during this time of greater national conversation regarding the future of higher education, its affordability for our students, and the important role of community colleges. I remain hopeful that our elected officials in Congress will pass some semblance of President Biden's American Families Plan that includes \$109 billion for two years of free community college so that "every student has the ability to obtain a degree or certificate" [as declared recently by the president who also stated](#) that our workers "need and deserve additional support to build their skills, increase their earnings, remain competitive, and share in the benefits of the new economy."

I echo these sentiments and believe that our students are so deserving of increased access to higher education, employment opportunities, and ultimately a prosperous life. That is why I am so excited to be a part of the NMACC's work to ensure the ongoing sustainability and excellence of our state's higher education system.

Please enjoy this upcoming July 4th holiday weekend joyfully and safely with your family and friends as we celebrate our great nation. And remember that campus will be closed on Monday, July 5th. The next time that I will come to you again in the Weekly Brief will be on Tuesday, July 13th. Until then, please stay safe and stay well.

Best Regards,



Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor
Professor of Business